

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Fairbanks North Star Borough****Project Title:**

Fairbanks North Star Borough - University Fire Service Area Fire/Rescue Truck

State Funding Requested: \$ 200,000**House District: 8 - D**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Replace the 1988 aerial ladder truck used by the University Fire Service Area with a modern fire fighting vehicle.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$650,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Local Funds					\$450,000	09
Total					\$450,000	

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The University Fire Service Area has a 20 year-old aerial ladder truck with almost 137,000 miles on it. It has been refurbished once to extend the life of the vehicle. Due to heavy use it has been spending more and more time in the shop. In 2007, it was out of service for a total of 3 months.

Project Timeline:

FY09

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Fairbanks North Star Borough and University Fire Service Area

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Edith Curry, Chief

Phone Number: 907-474-5770

Address: P.O. Box 755540

Fairbanks, AK 99775-5540

Email:

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Fire Fighting Vehicle University Fire Service Area



The University Fire Service Area is seeking financial support from the State of Alaska for the purchase of a new fire fighting vehicle similar to the one pictured above. The estimated cost of the identified vehicle is \$650,000

The University Fire Service Area has a 1988 80' quint style aerial ladder truck with almost 137,000 miles on it. It has been refurbished once to extend the life of the vehicle. Due to the heavy use of the vehicle it has been spending more and more time in the shop and is not available for response. In 2007 it was out of service for a total of 3 months. This new vehicle will allow us to put the 1988 into retirement and use it solely as a back up vehicle should the new vehicle go out of service for any reason. The quint style aerial continues to give us the most versatility for our operations and will help us maintain our ISO 2 rating for the community. The quint will be the first out vehicle at Station 2 located on University Avenue.

The residents of the University Fire Service Areas receive fire protection, rescue, EMS and hazardous materials response services. The University Fire Service area surrounds the City of Fairbanks on three sides and includes commercial areas including large hotels, industrial facilities such as the natural gas plant and large residential areas. Service area residents also receive non emergency services such as fire investigations, fire safety training and fire prevention and education. The fire service area has a very active partnership with three area elementary schools and also works with high school and college students in the area of fire safety.

The fire service area encompasses 26 square miles with over 22,000 people. During the summer those numbers increase dramatically. The fire service area provides mutual aid services to 10 area fire departments on a regular basis.



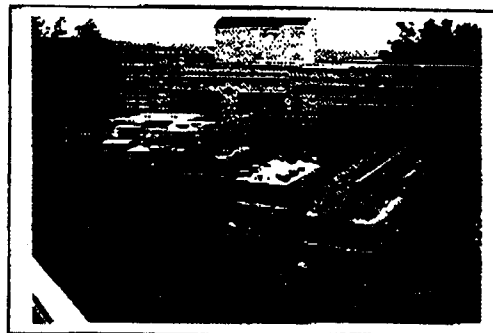
FACT SHEET

University Fire Station

NEW CONSTRUCTION: Fairbanks

Goals:

- Construction of a new, code compliant facility to serve the campus fire department and the off campus University Fire Service Area.
- Provide a disaster resistant building for operations during major disasters, whether on or off campus.
- Provide adequate training facilities for the fire department.
- Replace the aging fire station with one that meets modern standards for life safety and provides adequate living quarters for all firefighters and medics.



Background

Constructed in 1964, the Whitaker Building is the current home of the University Fire Department, Police Dept, Emergency Dispatch Center and Health Clinic. The original portion of the building is occupied by the University Fire Department and that portion of the building is experiencing structural failure. There are also numerous code deficiencies including lack of ventilation, failing electrical and plumbing systems and the department cannot expand to meet the increasing demands put on its emergency services. The student fire department is the only one of its kind in the United States.

The first priority of the University's fire department is to provide an efficient customer service plan that delivers effective life safety and property conservation to the residents of the UAF campus and the surrounding fire service area. The University Fire Department has had a contract with the FNSB to provide fire and EMS services to the University Fire Service Area since the late 1970's. Furthermore, the department is a learning ground for hundreds of fire and EMT students, providing on the job training that strengthens the academic programs. The integration of emergency services classes into the practical application of fire and EMS response increases student recruitment, retention, and success.

To adequately address the increasing demands placed on the department by the community and to achieve the academic goals set forth by the administration, the fire department must expand its staff, apparatus fleet, and most importantly, physical plant. The current building can no longer meet the program requirements of the fire and emergency medical services and must be replaced to allow a continuance of progressive emergency services at the University. The fire department's student program has increased from 18 students to 39 students due to both the increased run volume and expanding service area.

In 2002, the UAF Disaster Resistant University (DRU) study indicated that the replacement of the fire station on the UAF

campus was a critical need. The DRU study pointed towards structural problems and lack of adequate space as the basis of the critical classification. Since the facility was constructed in 1964, building codes have become more stringent for structures that house fire departments. Earthquake loads have increased as engineers get a better handle on structural requirements. During a recent moderate earthquake, several cracks appeared in key shear walls. Upon investigation, the entire structure suffered damage that could lead to further, more severe damage during the next earthquake. During a disaster, the emergency responders are the first line of defense for the public on campus and in the surrounding community. An earthquake of moderate magnitude centered near the campus could compromise the current fire station's structural components and render the public safety department incapable of providing emergency services.

Funding is required to build a suitable, safe fire station at a new location on or near the UAF campus.

Project Scope

A state of the art fire department will be constructed on land on or near the UAF main campus. The new station will house the Fire department and Fire Hall Dorm and have future capability to add space for TVC's fire science classes. The fire department would like to build a "green fire station" and look at ways to improve water recovery as well as reduce heating and electrical costs.

Estimated Construction Costs and Square Footage

Total Project Cost \$10-12.0 million

New construction....20,000 -25,000 gross square feet

Overview of the University Fire Department

The University Fire Department consists of 12 career staff and 39+ student firefighters and has been in existence for more than 50 years. The department is ranked in the top 1% (ISO Class 2) of fire departments throughout the United States. The Department provides hands on training in the areas of Fire, Rescue and EMS. The department has student firefighters from all over the United States and has an excellent reputation for placing firefighters in career departments. In addition to the UAF campus the department also protects a very large off campus population through a contract with the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The FNSB Fire Service Area covers 26 sq. miles and protects over 22,000 people. The Fire Service Area surrounds the City of Fairbanks on three sides and covers residential, commercial, industrial and major transportation routes. This contract has been in effect for 30 years. Funding for the department comes from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, contracts with the FNSB for EMS services and the University Fire Service Area for suppression and rescue services.

The department also works closely with UAF's Paramedic Program and the existing Fire Science Program. The Fire Department is also responsible for the Deferred Authority UAF has from the State Fire Marshal's office. This allows the University Fire Marshal to review all plans for new construction, remodels and facility modifications both on the main UAF Campus, Poker Flats Rocket Range, Musk Ox Farm as well as many of the rural campuses such as Nome, Kotzebue, Bethel, Dillingham, Ft Yukon, etc. The fire department also inspects University facilities to ensure compliance with the fire and life safety codes. The department responds to over 1362 calls a year and provides mutual aid to more than 10 area departments.

While there are student programs throughout the United States none of them operate the way UFD does. UFD treats the students as full time career firefighters working a 24 hr on/ 48 hr off shift and attending classes while on duty. They are fully paid and they obtain EMS certifications up to EMT 3A or Paramedic level, Firefighter certifications up to State (or IFSAC) Firefighter II and they must learn to drive and operate all emergency apparatus from the ambulances and brush vehicles to rescue engines and a 135' aerial ladder truck. Having a student program results in a high turnover of students; as the students complete their degrees and training and then move on to full time jobs. Students are not required to be emergency services majors. The department has had students who have become successful engineers, doctors, lawyers and in other professions. The full time career staff provides constant training and oversight as well as mentoring to these young men and women. Half of the current career staff are former student firefighters who came through the very same program.

Note: UFD carries an ISO rating of a Class 2. The Insurance Services Office is an independent organization which evaluates departments in a number of areas and insurance companies set their rates based on this classification. The areas are: Receiving and Handling Fire Alarms, Fire Department (includes personnel, training, equipment and apparatus) and Water Supply. There is a possible 100 points and the ISO Class is based on the total score. Up until last year UFD was the only ISO 2 department in the State. At that time Anchorage Fire Dept. obtained their ISO 2.